

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-2. (cancel).

3. (Currently Amended) An amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(i) an amino acid sequence coded by an isolated nucleic acid sequence, of an alternative splicing variant, selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the nucleic acid sequence depicted in any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO:48611 (denoted as NV 1 to NV 48611 on the CD-ROM);

(b) nucleic acid sequences having at least 90% identity with the sequence of (i) with the proviso that each sequence is different than the original nucleic acid sequence from which the sequences of (i) have been varied by alternative splicing; and

(c) fragments of (a) or (b) of at least 20 b.p., provided that said fragment contains a sequence which is not present, as a continuous stretch of nucleotides, in the original nucleic acid sequence from which the sequences of (a) have been varied by alternative splicing, ~~the isolated nucleic acid sequence of alternative splice variants of Claim 1,~~

(ii) homologues of the amino acid sequences of (i) in which one or more amino acids has been added, deleted, replaced or chemically modified in the region, or adjacent to the region, where the amino acid sequences differs from the original amino acid sequence, coded by the original nucleic acid sequence from which the variant has been varied by alternative splicing, wherein said homologues have at least 90% identity, but less than 100% identity with the amino acid sequence of (i); and

(iii) amino acid sequences appearing on the CD-ROM.

4 - 85. (cancelled).

86. (new) The amino acid sequence of claim 3, which is an amino acid sequence coded by said isolated nucleic acid sequence of an alternative splicing variant.

87. (new) The amino acid sequence of claim 3, which is a homologue of the amino acid sequences of (i) in which one or more amino acids has been added, deleted, replaced or chemically modified in the region, or adjacent to the region, where the amino acid sequences differs from the original amino acid sequence, coded by the original nucleic acid sequence from which the variant has been varied by alternative splicing, wherein said homologues have at

least 90% identity, but less than 100% identity with the amino acid sequence of (i).

88. (new) The amino acid sequence of claim 3, which is an amino acid sequence appearing on the CD-ROM.

89. (new) The amino acid sequence of claim 3 selected from the group consisting of:

(i) an amino acid sequence coded by an isolated nucleic acid sequence depicted in any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO:48611 (denoted as NV_1 to NV_48611 on the CD-ROM); and

(ii) homologues of the amino acid sequences of (i) in which one or more amino acids has been added, deleted, replaced or chemically modified in the region, or adjacent to the region, where the amino acid sequences differs from the original amino acid sequence, coded by the original nucleic acid sequence from which the variant has been varied by alternative splicing, wherein said homologues have at least 90% identity, but less than 100% identity with the amino acid sequence of (i).

90. (new) The amino acid sequence of claim 3 coded by an isolated nucleic acid sequence depicted in any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO:48611 (denoted as NV_1 to NV_48611 on the CD-ROM).